

# Free Public Library of Monroe Township

## Out and About A Community Newsletter

May 2025

Your guide to what's going on in Williamstown and the surrounding area!

### Spring Arts and Crafts Festival

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With spring in full swing, Monroe Township Community Affairs is holding its twice-yearly Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday, May 10th, from 10 AM to 3 PM along Williamstown's Main Street. (Rain date: Sunday, May 11th.)

The festival is free to the public and will feature artisans and crafters from around the South Jersey area, selling homemade wares from knickknacks to jewelry, from soap and scents to specialty foods. There will also be several non-profits (your library included!) providing information on their various uses and advantages.

Besides all of this, there will be plenty of activities that the whole family can enjoy...everything from food trucks with all kinds of goodies, to a petting zoo, bounce houses, face painting, live music, and much more!

Everyone is welcome to come to Main Street and enjoy a beautiful spring day shopping for some great stuff, enjoying some wonderful entertainment, and checking out our wonderful town!



#### Special Points of Interest:

- Celebrate Derby Day at Autumn Lake Winery
- The music of film composer John Williams in concert
- Godspell at Haddonfield Plays and Players
- The latest MCU entry
- Lilo and Stitch in live-action
- For May, recent novels that revolve around gardens

### Adults with Disabilities Dance Party

Adults (ages 18 and up) with disabilities can enjoy a fun night at a dance party to be held at Williamstown's Pfeiffer Community Center on Friday, May 16th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.



Anyone who qualifies can come and enjoy a night of music provided by a DJ, light refreshments, and a chance to socialize with others in the area.

The event is free, but requires signups. You can register at tinyurl.com/AWDDance.

Come and dance the night away at this fun event!

## Derby Day at Autumn Lake Winery

The Kentucky Derby has rolled around again, and Williamstown's Autumn Lake Winery on Malaga Road will be throwing a Derby Day celebration on Saturday, May 3rd from 2 PM to 7 PM.



You're encouraged to dress up in your very best for an afternoon of live music by local band Poor Mouth Henry, food trucks with lots of mouthwatering fare, and some of Autumn Lake's best wine for sale by the glass (you get one complimentary glass with your ticket). Then, at race time, you'll get to watch the Derby onscreen...all at Autumn Lake's beautiful lakeside setting.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 8-20 (nondrinkers), \$20 for ages 21 and up, and \$65 for a VIP experience that involves a private tent and bar and your own wood-fired pizza.

The event is rain or shine, so keep an eye on the forecast and dress accordingly. To order tickets (and to find out about Autumn Lake's other events this month, including a Mother's Day soiree, a Paint-And-Sip, and a candle workshop), visit [autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar](http://autumnlakewinery.com/event-calendar), scroll downward, and click on the event link. Happy Derby Day!

## The Music of John Williams with South Jersey Philharmonic

John Williams is one of the greatest movie composers of all time, and our own South Jersey Philharmonic will be honoring his music in two different concert dates.

The first concert will be on Sunday, May 4th at Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees at 3 PM. The encore presentation, also at 3 PM, will take place at Republic Bank Performing Arts Center on Hurfville-Cross Keys Road in Sewell on Sunday, May 18th.

You'll get to hear all of John's greatest themes—from *Jaws* to *Superman* to *E.T.* to *Schindler's List* to *Harry Potter*...and, of course, *Star Wars*!

To order tickets, visit [psnj.org/concerts](http://psnj.org/concerts)...and *May The Fourth Be With You!* (Or the 18th, as the case may be.)



## Mother's Day Brunch and Dinner at Scotland Run

Mother's Day is May 11th...want to celebrate with Mom? Scotland Run Country Club, on Fries Mill Road, is holding a brunch buffet and a la carte dinner at their Highlander Pub and Grill.



The brunch buffet will have seatings from 9:30 to 10:30 AM and from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. It's \$55 for adults and \$25 for kids 3-12 (kids under 3 get in free). The price includes a free mimosa or beer-mosa, but not taxes, fees, or gratuities. The a la carte dinner begins seating at 4 PM, and features a special menu from the Highlander's chef Michael Balog.

Reservations are required, so register at <https://www.opentable.com/r/scotland-run-golf-clubs-highlander-pub-and-grill-williamstown>.

Enjoy a special day out with Mom at this beautiful restaurant and country club!

## Adult Prom at Courtyard by Marriott in Glassboro

May is prom time for high school seniors...but why should teenagers have all the fun? The Courtyard by Marriott on Rowan Boulevard in Glassboro will hold an Adult Prom on Saturday, May 31st from 7 PM to 11 PM.

Adults of all ages are welcome. The prom's being organized by Miss Lady Tweet, a motivational speaker. Of course, formal attire is requested, so get into your best gowns and tuxedos. There will be food, a cash bar, a DJ for dancing (of course), and various vendors hawking their wares.

The cost is between \$65-\$600 depending which kind of ticket you buy. There are regular-level tickets for singles (\$65) and couples (\$100), VIP tickets for singles (\$90) and couples (\$160) which include early entry, preferred seating, a gift bag and a bottle of champagne, and the deluxe VIP table for eight (\$600). You can also sign up to be a vendor for a \$75 fee, which allows you a free meal. All proceeds go to benefit the Care Car Project, which helps families of young children in need of diapers, wipes, and toiletries.

To order tickets, go to [MissLadyTweet.com](http://MissLadyTweet.com) or call 856-244-1544. Whether you didn't make your high school prom or want to relive it, you're bound to enjoy this wonderful night out!



## Paint and Sip with Tarot Readings

Paint and Sip nights have become quite the thing in the last few years, but Creations by You on Black Horse Pike in Williamstown has added a new wrinkle to one of theirs. Their Paint and Sip night on Friday, May 16th at 6 PM will include tarot readings for its participants!



This event is a BYOB affair, so bring your own drinks and snacks. You'll get to paint your own creation (price of your painting will vary), while waiting for a tarot reading from Tami, a psychic whose specialty is sensing the emotions of both the living and the deceased. She uses tarot cards as her best way of communicating with the spirit world.

The cost to register is \$40, with an extra \$29.95-\$59.95 for your painting, depending on which one you choose to do. To register, call the studio at 856-777-5007 or leave a Facebook message on Creations By You's page.

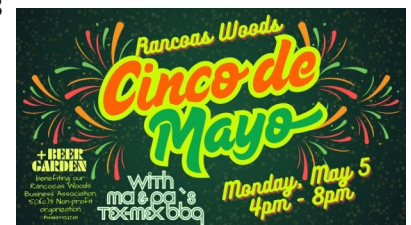
Come and enjoy a great night of creativity and getting in touch with your spiritual side!

## Cinco de Mayo in Rancocas Woods

Want to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in a unique way? The Rancocas Woods shopping district in Mount Laurel (on Creek Road) is having an outdoor celebration on Monday, May 5th, from 4 PM to 8 PM.

On the grounds of the Rancocas Woods shopping area, there will be a pop-up beer garden. You can also get food from Ma & Pa's Tex-Mex, a small restaurant in the shopping area. (The event's free to the public, but you have to pay for food and drink.) DJ Blake will be playing music to liven up the night. All proceeds from the beer garden will go to benefit the Rancocas Woods Business Association.

For more information, visit [rancocaswoodseventsshops.com](http://rancocaswoodseventsshops.com).





## All The World's A Stage...

“Day by day/Day by day/Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray...” Haddonfield Plays and Players presents *Godspell* (that other New Testament-based pop-rock musical) from May 9th to May 24th.



The show, with music by Stephen Schwartz of *Wicked* fame (his off-Broadway breakthrough) portrays the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth as if it were occurring in the modern day. Jesus gathers a diverse group of disciples from all walks of life. The group grows closer as Jesus presents His parables and teachings (often word-for-word from the Gospel of Matthew), sometimes acting them out in humorous ways with His followers. The disciples, in turn, express their own faith and devotion in song (many of them Episcopal hymns with new musical settings). But as it becomes clear that Judas will betray Him, the disciples must come to grips with the potential loss of their dear teacher and friend...and figure out how they can carry out his teachings without Him.

To order tickets, visit [haddonfieldplayers.com](http://haddonfieldplayers.com). With its charming pop score (including the standout hit “Day By Day”), this musical celebrates the joy, warmth, and community at the heart of religious faith at its best.

And speaking of religious faith expressed in up-tempo music...Oaklyn’s Ritz Theatre will be putting on the musical *Sister Act* (with a score from Disney legend Alan Menken) from May 2nd to May 18th!

Based on the hit 1992 movie that starred Whoopi Goldberg, the show introduces us to nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier, who finds herself in danger of her life when she witnesses her mobster boyfriend Curtis murdering a colleague. Police detective Eddie tells her she must go into hiding until Curtis is brought to trial, and figures the best hiding spot is a local convent. There, as “Sister Mary Clarence”, Deloris finds it hard to adjust at first, having lapsed somewhat from her own faith, and facing judgment from the Mother Superior (the only member of the convent in on her true identity). But as she finds her niche with the choir, she leads them to express their faith—in God and in themselves—in new ways (even if the Mother Superior is rather skeptical of them at first) and becomes a help to the struggling convent. When Curtis and his goons track her down, can she remain true to her newfound purpose in life and protect the people whom she’s become close to?



To order tickets, visit [ritztheatreco.org](http://ritztheatreco.org).

While we’re on the subject of murder witnesses trying to escape mob hits by disguising themselves...the hit Broadway musical *Some Like It Hot*, based on the classic 1959 film, comes to Philadelphia’s Forrest Theatre from May 20th to June 1st!



It’s 1933, at the height of Prohibition and the gangster era, and musicians Joe and Jerry seek a job with Spats Colombo, nightclub owner and mob kingpin. But when the pair witness Colombo murdering two underlings, they must flee for their lives. Joe comes up with the perfect plan...hide out with an all-female jazz band by disguising themselves as women! The two of them are hired with Sweet Sue’s band, where Joe, despite his disguise, finds himself falling for singer Sugar Kane. Jerry, meanwhile, is having a much easier time adjusting to life as a female than Joe

is...and wonders if this isn’t who he was meant to be all along. As the two blunder their way through this comedy of identities while dodging the mobsters still on their tail, they must both decide for themselves who they are.

This adaptation, which deals with interracial and LGBTQ issues in a way the 1959 version couldn’t, won four Tony Awards. To order tickets, visit [ensembleartsphilly.org](http://ensembleartsphilly.org).

# What's New Onscreen!

Sometimes, it's the ones on the wrong side of the law that can end up doing the right thing. *Thunderbolts\**, the newest entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, debuts May 2nd.

Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfuss), head of the CIA, is in need of a new team...one who can come through when even the Avengers can't. To achieve this end, she traps several people she knows of...people who either have special abilities or special powers, who operate from a far more morally gray area than other heroes. Among them are Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan) who's now been elected to Congress, Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), a former Black Widow, her foster-father Alexei "Red Guardian" Shostakov (David Harbour), Ava "Ghost" Starr (Hannah John-Kamen), introduced in *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, and John Walker (Wyatt Russell) or "U.S. Agent", a super-soldier whose methods are more ambiguous than Captain America's. With no choice but to follow the Contessa's directives, this fractious team must learn to work together...and, eventually, to question whether she is someone worth following.



This glimpse of the somewhat shadier—but always entertaining—side of the MCU is bound to delight fans.

"Ohana means family...and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten." That's the main point of the Disney animated classic *Lilo & Stitch*, which gets a live-action version that premieres May 23rd.

Far out in the galaxy, alien scientist Jumba Jookiba (Zach Galifianakis) has created a creature he calls Experiment 626, designed to cause havoc to his people's enemies. When he's taken to task on this, his experiment (Chris Sanders, reprising his role from the original) escapes, steals a spaceship, and heads to Earth, where he ends up in an animal shelter in Hawaii. There, he crosses paths with seven-year-old Lilo Pelekai (Maia Kealoha), who adopts him, thinking he's just a strange kind of dog, and names him "Stitch". Lilo's parents were killed some time ago in a car accident, leaving her teenage sister Nani (Sydney Elizebeth Agudong) to try to keep what's left of their family afloat. Stitch starts to bond with the rather eccentric but imaginative Lilo...but with his alien creator, other alien forces, and Earth agents on his trail, he must do everything possible to protect the people who have become his family...his ohana. In the process, he begins to learn that his life can be more than mischief and destruction.



With some new wrinkles to the story, this remake is a perfect illustration of the message that families are what you make them...and that even families that are little and broken can still be good.

With a remake starring Jackie Chan and the Netflix series *Cobra Kai*, the *Karate Kid* franchise has never been more popular. Now, with *Karate Kid: Legends* (debuting May 30th), two different versions of the story come together.



Teenage Li Fong (Ben Wang), still reeling from a family tragedy, relocates from Beijing to New York City along with his mother. There, he struggles to find a place for himself...although he never seeks trouble, it always seems to find him. He begins to find a way to connect when he starts learning kung fu from Mr. Han (Jackie Chan). In order to help a new friend, Li enters a martial arts tournament...but it soon becomes clear to both him and Han that the skills he's learned aren't enough. So Han reaches out to another martial arts expert...Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio). That's right...the 2010 film wasn't just a remake but took place in the same universe as the original film! With these two masters training him, Li finds a way of fusing two different styles of martial arts...and, in preparing for the tournament, must delve within to find the self-confidence that will help carry him forward in his new home.

For anyone who's loved the *Karate Kid* franchise since the beginning, this film promises to be a great way of bringing the story to a new generation.

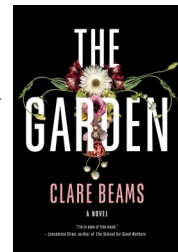


## The Biblio-Files

May is a month for gardening, so check out some recent novels that revolve around gardens and their uses...some more magical, or more sinister, than others.

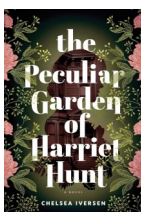
Nature can have wondrous powers...sometimes even greater than science realizes. In Clare Beams' *The Garden*, a hidden garden on an estate-turned-private-hospital has awesome powers...both to heal and to harm.

It's 1948, and Irene Willard is pregnant again after five previous miscarriages. Not wanting to lose this baby, as much for her beloved husband George as for herself, she agrees to a special regimen of treatment for high-risk pregnancy in New England's Berkshires. There, at a mansion renovated into a private hospital, she submits to the care of the married couple Dr. Bishop and Dr. Hall, despite her misgivings. Along with the other female patients, she will live at the hospital until a successful delivery, undergoing dietary restrictions, exercise regimens, psychological therapy, and hormone injections. But Irene's doubts about these treatments only grow, though she is unsure whether her fears are well-founded or a product of her pregnancy. After a while, she discovers a hidden walled garden on the estate's grounds that seems to have remarkable powers verging on the supernatural...even to the point of reviving dead beings. She and her fellow patients try to harness the garden's powers to combat the possible danger of the experimental treatments...but is this power real, or Irene's hallucination?



If *The Secret Garden* were a psychological horror novel, it would be very much like this fascinating meditation on nature, women's bodies, and the link between the two...and how it can be exploited.

Following on from the theme of oppressed women and how nature can aid them, Chelsea Iversen's *The Peculiar Garden of Harriet Hunt* examines how an oppressed woman channels the power of her most unusual garden.



Harriet Hunt has always been considered odd in the eyes of Victorian London...she's introverted and is devoted to the care of her garden, one of the only bright spots of her family's old mansion. Nor does she waste any sorrow over the disappearance of her emotionally abusive father...she's relieved to be rid of him. But when the authorities suspect foul play in her father's disappearance and suspicion falls on her, she marries a man who seems to love her for herself. She figures this marriage will protect her...but it soon becomes apparent that Christian Comstock is worse than her father ever was. What's more, Harriet begins to suspect that Christian and the other men in her life are plotting something sinister...and that she's at the center of their schemes. To find out what's going on and defend herself against it, she must trust in the power of the garden...which seems to have magic powers controlled by Harriet's own emotions.

This tale of magical realism, blended with historical fiction, shows how quiet strength, combined with nature's gifts, can triumph over oppressive forces in unknown ways. (*This book is available on Hoopla.*)

Two women, in two different time periods, find their way to a cottage and garden that provides their lives with new meaning and purpose in Rachel Burton's *The Butterfly Garden*.

In 1963, schoolteacher Clara Samuels buys Butterfly Cottage in the English village of Carybrook...something of a scandal since it's unusual for a single woman to buy her own home, and Carybrook seems to be far behind the changing world of the sixties. But Clara has loved this cottage and its butterfly garden since she played there as a child. She reconnects with a man she'd been friends with in childhood...but something happens, and Clara flees England. Years later, in 2018, a young woman named Meredith, her personal and professional life in shambles, gets word that she's inherited the cottage and garden from a great-aunt she's never heard of. She figures on selling it to pay her debts, but when she arrives there, a man named Zack is already living there...he's been bequeathed half the property. Now, Meredith must unravel the secrets of the past in order to settle her present, while growing closer to Zack...and, in the process, growing to love the cottage and garden and allowing them a place in her heart.



For fans of dual-timeline stories, this is a wonderful examination of nature's power to heal the wounds of the past. (*This novel is available on Hoopla.*)